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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY USSR (Orel Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 27 April 1950

SUBJECT Two Airfields near [REDACTED]

NO. OF PAGES 2

This document is hereby regraded to  
**CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the  
 letter of 18 October 1978 from the  
 Director of Central Intelligence to the  
 Archivist of the United States.  
 Next Review Date: 2008

PLACE  
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS. 1  
(LISTED BELOW)25X1C  
DATE OF  
INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. The airfield west of Orel (36°5'E/52°57'N), Orel Oblast, was about a mile from the center of the town, northwest of the road to Kromy (35°47'E/52°42'N) (see attached sketch).
2. The following installations were between the airfield and the road:
  - a. A five-story administration building, partly destroyed.
  - b. Destroyed buildings.
  - c. A tent camp of 40 to 50 tents.

There was a brickyard northeast of the field and a plantation of fruit trees to the southwest. The view of the landing field was obstructed.

3. Aircraft stationed at the field:

- a. Forty to fifty fighters with radial engine and nose wheel, [REDACTED]
- b. Eighteen to twenty-five jet aircraft with straight leading and curved trailing edges, air aperture in nose, fitted with nose wheel. In the fall of 1949, a novel type was observed which, in design, was similar to that described above. However, at its wing tips were "perpendicular surfaces" similar to "control" devices. The planes usually flew in lines of four.

4. A Soviet construction battalion of several hundred men, wearing black epaulets, was engaged in construction work at the field. They were quartered in tents and wooden huts set up along the road.
5. Sizable quantities of asphalt were picked up at an asphalt plant, allegedly for the construction of a runway.
6. Boundary lights, hangers, workshops, etc. were not observed.
7. Large quantities of equipment such as mobile assembly ladders, tools packed in boxes, and hanger equipment arrived between 15 and 25 October 1949.

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8.

There was another airfield about 1.3 miles north of town. [REDACTED] a barracks occupied by flying personnel was located there. The mentioned equipment was allegedly shipped to the western airfield from this field.

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Comment:

According to one previous report, it was assumed that the field is used as a commercial and military field. A military pilot school was also believed to be there. This assumption seems to be supported by the present report. It is now assumed that the school is a fighter pilot school for retraining with jet aircraft. Single-engine conventional fighters (probably a LA-design) and two types of jet fighters were stationed at the field. The two jet designs are believed to be the well-known MIG-9 and YAK-17. The alleged "control devices" fitted at the wing tips mentioned in para 3b are believed to be wing tip tanks.

1 Annex: Location Sketch of the Airfield of ONEL-West.

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